

CLASS SPECIFICATION
County of Fairfax, Virginia

CLASS CODE: 1516 **TITLE:** SENIOR UTILITIES ANALYST **GRADE:** S-30

DEFINITION:

Under limited supervision, represents the County before State and Federal regulatory authorities in public utilities rate hearings or other regulatory proceedings presenting the position most beneficial to the County and its citizens; develops, presents, and defends recommendations on public utilities regulatory issues to the Board of Supervisors; negotiates contracts for electricity rates for County agencies through representation on a joint governmental purchasing association; supervises professional staff and provides technical oversight to the analysis of financial, economic and policy issues concerning the operation and practices of the public utilities serving Fairfax County; performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS:

This class is distinguished from the Utilities Analyst in that the primary focus of the Senior Utilities Analyst is on the representative role in rate hearings or other utility regulatory proceedings before State and Federal regulatory authorities presenting and defending the position most beneficial to the County, and supervises and provides technical oversight of the research and analysis conducted by the Utilities Analyst; whereas the primary focus of the Utilities Analyst is on the research and analysis of regulatory issues and market performance of public utilities serving Fairfax County, and assists in preparation of the testimony in rate hearings before the State and Federal regulatory authorities.

ILLUSTRATIVE DUITES:

Represents the County before State and Federal regulatory authorities (i.e., Virginia State Corporation Commission, Federal Communications Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) in public utility rate hearings or other regulatory proceedings presenting the position most beneficial to the County and its citizens. The public utilities include electric, natural gas, transportation, telephone, and cable communications; Reviews, prepares, and presents testimony, exhibits, comments, briefs, and reports for public utility rate cases; Formulates cross-examination questions and assists in the development of briefs for the County attorney's office; Presents oral and written testimony as an expert witness before State and Federal regulatory authorities; Serves as a member of the Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association, a regional purchasing association of local government entities, to negotiate contracts to purchase electricity at competitive rates for County agencies; Represents Fairfax County Government on the regional governmental consortium (i.e., Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments) on public utilities regulatory issues; Provides supervision to professional staff;

Oversees the technical work of Utility Analyst;

Oversees the research and analysis of investment, capital budgeting and stock market prices, capital structure, cost of debt, and common equity of the utilities companies in the determination of fair rate of return for public utilities in support of testimony for rate cases;

Conducts extensive research and analysis on highly complex public utility issues incorporating economics, finance, statistics and policy related applications that may have a long-term impact on public utilities conditions;

Oversees the research and analysis of financial activities of the utility companies serving the County to ensure their conformance with the regulations of various governmental regulatory bodies;

Reviews and identifies utility companies' business operation and practices that possibly impact on safety for the County citizens, i.e., a plan to install high voltage transmission lines in the County region;

Provides in-depth analysis and technical advice on public utilities regulatory issues to the Board of Supervisors; develops, presents and defends recommendations before the Board of Supervisors;

Oversees reports and recommendations to the Consumer Protection Commission and the Board of Supervisors on licensing issues, including taxicab rates and number of taxicabs certificated in Fairfax County;

Keeps informed of developments in the area of utility policy and regulation and their impact on the economic activities of the utility companies and the consumers;

Prepares special reports and performs other utility-related studies for the information and guidance of County officials;

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Thorough knowledge of financial and economic analysis techniques;

Thorough knowledge of public utility organization and financial structure;

Thorough knowledge of rules and regulations governing utility operations;

Ability to conduct independent research on complex, technical, economic, financial and policy related issues;

Ability to analyze and interpret financial and economic data;

Ability to speak clearly and effectively to groups, or in presenting testimony;

Ability to develop and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships with County officials, staff and citizens;

Ability to think creatively;

Ability to resolve problems, and make decisions appropriately in timely fashion;

Ability to write detailed reports, comments, and testimony;

Ability to present testimony and reports before local, state, and federal governing and regulatory bodies;

Ability to supervise, coach, counsel, train, and evaluate performance of staff;

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS:

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with a Bachelor's degree in economics or finance or a closely related field and five years of professional experience closely related to the financial and economic analyses of public utilities and the services rendered by them.

ESTABLISHED: July 5, 2006